

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 OMB-01
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R 311458Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1182
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EG UR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-SOVIET RHETORIC HEATS UP AGAIN

REF (A) CAIRO 1575 (B) CAIRO 1683

1. SINCE JAN 27 ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANCELLATION OF SOVIET
DEPMIN FORTRADE GRISHIN'S VISIT (REF B), PRES SADAT HAS BEEN
PULLING OUT RHETORICAL STOPS AGAINST SOVIETS. IN DISCUSSION
WITH LABOR LEADERS JAN 29 (SEPTTEL) SADAT CHARGED THAT SOVIETS
ATTACKING EGYPT'S PRINCIPLE OF SOCIAL PEACE, ADDING "BLODDY
CONFLICT IS BASIC PRINCIPLE OF SOVIET UNION." ADDRESSING
HIGHER COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITIES FOLLOWING DAY (SEPTTEL) PRESIDENT
CHARGED THAT "SOVIET UNION IS BEHIND EVERYTHING THAT TOOK PLACE."

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2. COMMENT: WHATEVER SOVIET REASONS FOR POSTPOING GRISHIN VISIT,
SADAT HAS PREDICTABLY SEIZED UPON IT AS CONFIRMATION THAT
SOVIETS IMPLICATED IN JAN 18-19 RIOTS AND IS INDULGING IN SOME
OF HIS STRONGEST ANTI-SOVIET RHETORIC SINCE ABROGATION OF
FRIENDSHIP TREATY IN MARCH 1976.

3. ALTHOUGH THERE APPARENTLY MECHANISM TO MAINTAIN SOVIET-

EGYPTIAN TRADE AT 1976 LEVELS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE
CONSIDERABLE CONCERN, PARTICULARLY IN LABOR CIRCLES, THAT
ABSENCE OF PROTOCOL WILL RESULT IN SOVIET CURTAILMENT OF VITAL
INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS AND SPARE PARTS FOR EGYPT AND A CLOSING
OFF OF SOVIET MARKETS FOR EGYPTIAN FINISHED GOODS. AS IF
TO COUNTER THIS LOCAL UNEASE, AHRAM JAN 31 CARRIES REPORT FROM
NABIL SADIQ, APPARENTLY EGYPTIAN DCM IN MOSCOW, ASSERTING THAT
SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO COKING COAL AND NEWSPIRING
DELIVERIES FOR 1977 AND BLANDLY NOTING THAT SOVIETS, WHO HAVE
COMPLETED ONLY 77 PERCENT OF DELIVERIES UNDER 1976 PROTOCOL, WILL
BE FULFILLING REMAINDER OF 1976 QUOTAS DURING FIRST QUARTER OF
1977.

4. FOR MOSCOW: WE NOTE THAT SADIQ'S REPORT AFFIRMS THAT
SOVIETS HAD APPROVED EGYPTIAN REQUEST THAT EXCHANGE RATE
OF POUND STERLING BE LINKED TO EQUIVALENT IN US DOLLAR WHEN
CONTRACTS SIGNED, BECAUSE DROP IN STERLING VALUE MEANS DROP
IN RETURNS FOR EGYPTIAN EXPORTER. IF CORRECT, DOES THIS
REPRESENT SOVIET NEGOTIATING CONCESSION?

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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